

Introduced by Senator Karnette

February 20, 2003

Senate Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 7, as introduced, Karnette. Highways: trucking size.

This measure would respectfully memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to maintain the current federal truck size and weight limitations and to oppose proposals to experiment with longer and heavier trucks on public highways in the reauthorization of the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105-178).

Fiscal committee: no.

1 Whereas, The State of California is committed to protecting the
2 safety of motorists on its highways and protecting taxpayers'
3 investment in our highway infrastructure; and

4 Whereas, The state supports safe and reliable trucking
5 businesses and drivers; and

6 WHEREAS, In the 2001–02 fiscal year, the state expended over
7 800 million dollars to maintain its highways and bridges; and

8 WHEREAS, The August 2000 United States Department of
9 Transportation Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight study
10 found that double and triple trailer trucks are at least 11 percent
11 more likely to be involved in a fatal accident than a single trailer
12 truck, and nationwide use of these trucks would result in 53 billion
13 dollars in bridge reconstruction costs and an additional 266 billion
14 dollars in congestion costs; and

1 WHEREAS, A road test conducted by the California
2 Department of Transportation in 1984 found that triple trailer
3 trucks experienced extended periods of sideways “whip and
4 sway” and slower speeds on grades adding dangers for all
5 motorists; and

6 WHEREAS, The Transportation Research Board, a federal
7 government advisory group, has recommended testing longer and
8 heavier trucks, including triple trailer trucks, on public highways
9 under pilot programs; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
11 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully
12 memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States
13 to maintain the current federal truck size and weight limitations
14 and oppose proposals to experiment with longer and heavier trucks
15 on public highways in the reauthorization of the federal
16 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law
17 105-178); and be it further

18 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
21 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
22 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
23 States.

